

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) An electrostatically liquid atomizing device comprising:

- a tank holding a volume of water;
- a capillary carrier configured to have a water collecting end and an emitter end opposite of said water collecting end, said water collecting end collecting the water for feeding it through said carrier to said emitter end,
- a first electrode electrically charging said water at said emitter end,
- a second electrode opposed to said emitter end,
- said first electrode and said second electrode being configured to be connected to a voltage source, said voltage source applying a voltage across said first and second electrodes to thereby electrostatically charge the water at said emitter end and emit the said water in the form of tiny ionized particles,
- said device including a cation exchanger configured to remove mineral ions from said water,
- wherein said capillary carrier is made of a cation exchange material to define itself as said cation exchanger.

3. (Previously Presented) The electrostatically liquid atomizing device comprising:

- a tank holding a volume of water;
- a capillary carrier configured to have a water collecting end and an emitter end opposite of said water collecting end, said water collecting end collecting the water for feeding it through said carrier to said emitter end,
- a first electrode electrically charging said water at said emitter end,
- a second electrode opposed to said emitter end,
- said first electrode and said second electrode being configured to be connected to a voltage source, said voltage source applying a voltage across said first and second electrodes to thereby electrostatically charge the water at said emitter end

and emit the said water in the form of tiny ionized particles,  
said device including a cation exchanger configured to remove mineral ions  
from said water,  
wherein said cation exchanger is fitted around said capillary carrier at a  
portion upstream of said emitter end.

4. (Currently Amended) The An electrostatically liquid atomizing device as  
~~set forth in claim 1,~~ comprising:

a tank holding a volume of water;

a capillary carrier configured to have a water collecting end and an emitter  
end formed into a single pointed end shape opposite of said water collecting end, said  
water collecting end collecting the water for feeding it through said carrier to said  
emitter end;

a first electrode electrically charging said water at said emitter end; and

a second electrode opposed to said emitter end,

wherein said first electrode and said second electrode are configured to be  
connected to a voltage source, said voltage source applying such a voltage across said  
first and second electrodes to thereby electrostatically charge the water at said emitter  
end and emit the said water in the form of tiny ionized particles of a nanometer size,

said device including a cation exchanger configured to remove mineral ions  
from said water, and

said device further including an auxiliary vessel which is attached to said tank  
and is configured to contain said cation exchanger in contact with said water.

5. (Previously Presented) An electrostatically liquid atomizing device  
comprising:

a tank holding a volume of water;

a capillary carrier configured to have a water collecting end and an emitter  
end opposite of said water collecting end, said water collecting end collecting the water  
for feeding it through said carrier to said emitter end,

a first electrode electrically charging said water at said emitter end,

a second electrode opposed to said emitter end,  
said first electrode and said second electrode being configured to be connected to a voltage source, said voltage source applying a voltage across said first and second electrodes to thereby electrostatically charge the water at said emitter end and emit the said water in the form of tiny ionized particles,

said device including a cation exchanger configured to remove mineral ions from said water, and an auxiliary vessel which is attached to said tank and is configured to contain said cation exchanger in contact with said water,

wherein said cation exchanger comprises a plurality of granules made of a cation exchange material.

6. (Previously Presented) An electrostatically liquid atomizing device comprising:

a tank holding a volume of water;

a capillary carrier configured to have a water collecting end and an emitter end opposite of said water collecting end, said water collecting end collecting the water for feeding it through said carrier to said emitter end,

a first electrode electrically charging said water at said emitter end,

a second electrode opposed to said emitter end,

said first electrode and said second electrode being configured to be connected to a voltage source, said voltage source applying a voltage across said first and second electrodes to thereby electrostatically charge the water at said emitter end and emit the said water in the form of tiny ionized particles,

said device including a cation exchanger configured to remove mineral ions from said water, and an auxiliary vessel which is attached to said tank and is configured to contain said cation exchanger in contact with said water,

wherein said cation exchanger comprises a stack of plural sheets made of a cation exchange material.

7. (Previously Presented) An electrostatically liquid atomizing device comprising:

- a tank holding a volume of water;
- a capillary carrier configured to have a water collecting end and an emitter end opposite of said water collecting end, said water collecting end collecting the water for feeding it through said carrier to said emitter end,
- a first electrode electrically charging said water at said emitter end,
- a second electrode opposed to said emitter end,
- said first electrode and said second electrode being configured to be connected to a voltage source, said voltage source applying a voltage across said first and second electrodes to thereby electrostatically charge the water at said emitter end and emit the said water in the form of tiny ionized particles,
- said device including a cation exchanger configured to remove mineral ions from said water, and an auxiliary vessel which is attached to said tank and is configured to contain said cation exchanger in contact with said water,
- wherein said cation exchanger is a spiral sheet made of a cation exchange material.